

Mauger (French name)

Mauger is a Norman surname of Germanic origin (possibly meaning 'council-spear'^[1]). It was used first as a given name in the Middle Ages. pronunciation API : French [moʒe] (Old French [maˈdʒəʁ]) ; English ['meɪ.dʒ.ə(ɹ)].

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Etymology

The second element of the name *-ger* is from Germanic *gari* "spear" (see *Roger*, *Gerard*, etc.), while the first element *Mau-*, is a short form for *Madal-*, which is ultimately from Germanic **maþl-* "assembly, council" (Old High German *mahal*, Anglo-Saxon *mæðl* "council, assembly").^{[2][3]} The Old Norman form was *Malger*. In fact, it could recover an Old Scandinavian given name, like many other Norman first names (Anfray, Angot, etc.) in the Middle Ages. The Old Norse form for *madal* was *mál* "speech, law-suit" and the given name was perhaps **Málgeir*, which has survived as *Málgeir* in Icelandic, if it is not a new created name. The Old Danish nickname *Malti* could be related to it, as a short form of the Germanic names beginning with *Madal-*.^[4] The given name *Malte* originates from it.

In the old documents, it was Latinized different ways such as *Maugerius*, *Malgerius*, *Maldegarius*, *Madalgarius*. Old French *Malger* and Middle French *Maugier* are often found.

Historical sources

**Madalgari-* belongs to a large family of Germanic given names beginning with *Madal-* we find in Latin documents dating back the Merovingians and the reign of Charlemagne : *Madalgaudus*, *Madalcarius*, *Madalgis*, *Madalberta*, *Madalgudis*.^[5]

Archbishop Mauger of Rouen in the eleventh century, had a half-brother Robert I, Duke of Normandy who was the father of William the Conqueror.^[6] Archbishop Mauger was exiled to Guernsey, with his family, where he finally drowned himself because he was drunk.

In England, one *Hugo filius Malgeri* (Norman **Hugh Fitz Malger*) appears in the *Domesday Book* of Essex in 1086, a short time after the Conquest, while *Malger filius Gilleberti* (Norman **Malger Fitz G(u)ilbert*) is mentioned later in 1150.^[7] As a surname, it first appears in the mid 13th Century, while other recordings include *John Malger*, mentioned in the Assize Court Rolls of Somerset in 1272, and a certain

Thomas Mauger, recorded in the Cartulary of Oseney Abbey (Oxford) in 1260. The first recorded modern spelling of the family name is shown to be that of *John Mauger*, which was dated 1250, in the *Feet of Fines of Somerset*, during the reign of Henry III of England, known as "The Frenchman".

Repartition and usage

Besides continental Normandy,^[8] the surname Mauger is frequently found in insular Normandy, in other words the Channel Islands, particularly Guernsey and Jersey. The surname first reached England following its conquest by the Normans in 1066. There and in the rest of the Commonwealth, the name Mauger is usually pronounced "Major", rather than retaining a French pronunciation.

Other Maugers include two New Zealand sportsmen, Ivan Mauger who was six times the motorcycle speedway world champion and his great-nephew, Aaron Mauger who made his All Blacks debut in 2001. Another is Samuel Mauger, a former Australian politician originating in Guernsey.

Mauger bleu is also a popular French grammar textbook, used all over the world (full title: *Cours de Langue et de Civilisation Françaises*, tomes I-IV, by Gaston Mauger).

Toponymy

- Bosc-Mauger, hamlet at Yerville, Upper Normandy
- Hameau Mauger, hamlet at Foucarville, Lower Normandy
- Lawarde-Mauger-l'Hortoy (Picardy)
- Maugerville, Canada
- Le Mesnil-Mauger (Lower Normandy)
- Mesnil-Mauger (Upper Normandy, *Mesnil Mauger* in 1210)
- Saint-Ouen-le-Mauger (Upper Normandy, *Sanctus Audoenus le Maugier* 12th century)

Notes

1. Percy Hide Reaney, *The origin of English surnames*, p. 138. Routledge & K. Paul, 1967.
2. Theo Vennemann, *Preference laws for syllable structure* (on line) [1] (<https://books.google.com/books?id=TTyvc7irZLwC&pg=PA38>)
3. Studies in Runic Origins 1: Germanic *maþl-/ *mahl- and Etruscan ...In the handbooks, a Common Germanic *maþl- is programmatically reconstructed on results from later anaptyxis, as in *maþl > OHG, OS onomastic Madal-.
journals.cambridge.org/article_S104082070000233X, T. Markey - 1998
4. Nordic Names : etymology of *Malti* (<http://www.nordicnames.de/wiki/Malti>)
5. Pierre Riché, *Daily Life in the World of Charlemagne*, 1978 (on line) [2] (<https://books.google.com/books?id=ffGjKJ2Rg8IC&pg=PA199>)
6. Pierre Bouet and François Neveux, *Les évêques normands du XIe siècle* in *Colloque de Cerisy-la-Salle* (30 septembre - 3 octobre 1993), Presses universitaires de Caen, p. 19-35 (French)
7. *Documents illustrative of the Social and Economic History of the Danelaw*
8. Géopatronyme : Repartition of the surname Mauger in France, after the number of births before WWI, in dark : the Norman *départements* Manche (50), Seine-Maritime (76), Calvados (14), Eure (27) and Orne (61) [3] (<http://www.geopatronyme.com/cgi-bin/carte/nomcarte.cgi?nom=Mauger&submit=Valider&client=cdip>)

See also

- Mauger (disambiguation)
 - Mayor (surname)
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